

The people most impacted by disasters and emergencies are often the most vulnerable members of our society: the elderly, the economically disadvantaged, and those with disabilities. All Americans deserve nothing less than the full-throated support of their federal government as they prepare for natural disasters and deal with public health emergencies, and that is exactly what my legislation would ensure.

As a member of California's Congressional delegation, I have seen firsthand the devastation that disasters can have on communities. In 2017 and 2018, our state experienced the most destructive fires recorded in California history. The federal government must be a real partner for states as they prepare for these disasters and seek to make our communities more resilient. My district is also one of the most flood-prone in the entire nation, and Travis Air Force Base housed the first American evacuees from the coronavirus outbreak in East Asia.

That is why the "FEMA Disaster Preparedness Improvement Act" would increase the federal cost share under the Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management Performance Grant Programs to 85 percent, from 75 percent and 50 percent respectively. FEMA's Emergency Performance Grant Program helps state and local officials manage public emergencies including health crises, such as the recent coronavirus outbreak.

My bill would also exempt environmental reviews under federal or state law from the 36-month deadline to complete hazard mitigation projects and make designated "special flood hazard areas" under the National Flood Insurance Program automatically eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants. Lastly, the bill would direct the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on the challenges faced by states in utilizing FEMA's Public Assistance Program Alternative Procedures.

Damaged caused by natural disasters in the United States has risen in recent years, with an average of 15 disasters with a cost of over a billion dollars between 2016 and 2018, more than double the average of the previous three decades. Congress must respond to this troubling trend and better support vulnerable communities across the country as they prepare and increase resilience to natural disasters and other public emergencies.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to co-sponsor the "FEMA Disaster Preparedness Improvement Act." As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I plan to make this critical legislation a major priority.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN NIEDERMAN

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and career of John Niederman. Since 1985, John has poured his heart and soul into the outstanding work conducted by Pathfinder Services.

Though born in New York, Indiana is proud to claim John as one of our own. A graduate of Fort Wayne's own University of Saint

Francis, he has spent over three decades working in Huntington with Pathfinder Services to help those who need it most.

John embodies the purest form of Hoosier hospitality in his work, helping countless others on their way to realizing greater economic, physical and developmental independence. He has been active in creating an environment that values inclusion and fairness, giving those whom he encounters the best chance possible to succeed and live out the American Dream.

As John prepares to step down from a position he has loved and excelled at, I have no doubt that he will continue to be a leader in his community and a shining example to those who seek him out. Huntington County, and all of Indiana, are blessed to continue to count John and his family as their own.

JUDGE PERRY LITTLE—BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a jurist who has served our Tampa neighbors for decades—and continues his dedication to this day. Through his work spanning more than 40 years and as the second African American appointed to the bench in Hillsborough County, which is the longest tenure for an African American judge in the county's history, Judge Perry A. Little has helped shape our community forever. Judge Little is husband to Sonja Latson Little and father of three: Matthew (Nandie), Marissa and Josie. He is also the proud grandfather of four girls, Reagan, Ivy, Gabrielle and Eden, and a member of Beulah Baptist Church.

Judge Little was born and educated in Georgia. He received his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College and his law degree from Emory University. After completing law school, he took a position at a legal clinic where he could have a larger community impact over a federal position he was offered in Washington, D.C.

At a time when windows and doors were just beginning to open for African Americans in the legal profession, Judge Little was appointed to the bench in Hillsborough County in 1977 by Governor Rubin Askew, where he presided for more than 12 years. He was the second African American in the county's history to be appointed, standing on the shoulders of Judge George Edgecomb, who only served three years as a county judge due to illness, but set the highest of standards for his colleagues to follow. The 1970s were a transformative time for communities as desegregation orders blanketed the nation while raising the profile of diversity at all levels of government. With the vital role our courts play in our democracy, economy and daily lives, a more diverse judiciary brings greater confidence in our justice system and is an important step toward a more just and equal America. In 1993, Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Judge Little to the Circuit Court where he served in the Juvenile and Circuit Civil Divisions until his retirement in 2007.

Much of Judge Little's Circuit experience was dedicated to positively impacting the lives of juveniles and young adults through his legal

decisions, who he continues to serve as an inspiration. Judge Little retired to care for his aging father in Georgia but continues to lend his judicial expertise as a Senior Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, and assists other judges to ensure each case is given the time and care it deserves. He has been recognized for his extensive commitment to service through various awards, including the 2018 Distinguished Leadership Award from the Black Law Students Association at WMU-Cooley Law School's Tampa Bay campus.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, it gives me immense pride to honor a great public servant this Black History Month. Judge Little is a man faithful to his family and community, and is unparalleled in service to his neighbors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, due to travel complications, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, March 2.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, H.R. 5003 and YEA on Roll Call No. 80, H.R. 5932.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, due to travel delays, I was unable to participate in the following votes: Roll Call No. 79, 80, 81, and 82. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79; YEA on Roll Call No. 80; YEA on Roll Call No. 81; and YEA on Roll Call No. 82.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT DIANA M. CAREY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant, Senior Master Sergeant Diana M. Carey.

Sergeant Carey attended Jackson State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary and special education. She also earned a Masters in English to teach secondary level education.

Sergeant Carey retired from the United States Air Force with twenty years of service. She actively served in Texas, Japan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. In addition, she has held administrative, contracting and intelligence positions within the United States Air Force. Sergeant Carey also supported the Military Airlift Command in deployments.

Since July of 1997, she has served as the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training

Corps (AFJROTC) instructor for Raymond High School in Raymond, Mississippi. Effective June 30, 2020, she will be retiring from the Hinds County School District with 23 years of service. During her time, she has trained over 1,500 cadets. Sergeant Carey has been named Teacher of the Year and Outstanding Air Force Junior ROTC instructor twice during her tenure. Not to mention, she is one of the 25 percent qualified as an advanced instructor.

Sergeant Carey has also been instrumental in training new instructors at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. Her overall mission has been to “develop citizens of character dedicated to serving the nation and community.”

Aside from her military duties, Sergeant Carey is a member of the Illinois American Legion and the Brandon Quilters Guild. She attends Jackson Revival Center where she has taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and managed vacation Bible school activities.

Her hobbies include quilting, gardening and spending time with her son and three grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Senior Master Sergeant Diana M. Carey for her dedication and tenacity to serving the community and the desire to be an example for all.

IN HONOR OF LEE-SCOTT ACADEMY WINNING THE AISA CLASS AAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Lee-Scott Academy girls basketball team for winning the Alabama Independent School Association (AISA) Class AAA basketball championship.

The Warriors defeated Glenwood 44 to 26 in the championship game on February 15th at the Crampton Bowl in Montgomery.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Lee-Scott Academy, the coaches, the players and all the Warrior fans on this exciting achievement. Go Warriors.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF ED KULHAWIK

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition Chief Ed Kulhawik as he retires after 39 years of service as a law enforcement officer.

Ed began his career with the Wilton, Connecticut Police Department in 1981 as a patrol officer until he chose to take a leave of absence to pursue a master's degree in Social Work from Boston College. After returning to the Wilton Police Department he went on to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Administrative Captain, and in 2004, Chief

of Police. After serving the Wilton community for 27 years, he accepted a position with the Eastham, Massachusetts Police Department on August 31, 2009. In doing so, Chief Kulhawik fulfilled a long-time dream of working on Cape Cod.

During his tenure as Chief in Eastham, he developed new recruitment strategies that focused on education. Chief Kulhawik improved training techniques and built significant relationships with both residents and local legislators. In both departments, he repeatedly exemplified the highest ideals of his profession and worked to greatly improve both communities.

Additionally, Chief Kulhawik led many of Massachusetts' most prodigious non-departmental policing bodies, such as the FBI National Academy Associates for Connecticut and the Cape Cod Regional Law Enforcement Council.

Chief Ed Kulhawik has dedicated his career to serving Eastham, and I wish him many years of well-deserved happiness and more with his family in retirement.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Edward V. Kulhawik, Chief of the Eastham Police Department, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his years of dedication to his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for suspension votes on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 due to the California primary election. Had I been present, I would have assented to H. Res. 387, H.R. 4508, and H. Res. 230 passing by voice vote.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today in observance of Women's History Month and its 2020 theme—Valiant Women of the Vote. Each year, the National Women's History Project selects a unifying theme to recognize and promote Women's History Month. This year's theme recognizes the centennial of the 19th Amendment and honors the stories of women from the original suffrage movement.

In the United States, women of every race, class, and ethnic background have played a critical role with ensuring that women's voices are heard. For generations, women have contributed to resolving conflicts and have worked to promote equality in the workplace, schools, homes, communities, and government. Women have insisted upon and continue to fight for respect, justice, and equality for all of humanity.

Throughout the years, women from diverse backgrounds have contributed to the courageous movement that would secure a wom-

an's right to vote. Among these remarkable leaders being recognized this month are passionate activists, including Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Theresa Kumar, founder of Voto Latino, Terry Ao Minnis, Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Edith Mayo, curator at the Smithsonian Museum and historian of women's suffrage. Also honored are Lucy Burns, a Silent Sentinel who protested at the White House, and Carrie Chapman Catt, a suffrage activist from Iowa who served as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett, a NAWSA member and founder of a suffrage organization in Hawaii, Ana Roque de Duprey, a Puerto Rican suffrage organizer, and Elizabeth Piper Ensley, a reporter for the “Women's Era” and member of the National Association of Colored Women, are also remembered for their contributions to the movement.

We also recall the passionate efforts of Marie Foster, a civil rights leader who marched from Selma to Montgomery and attempted to register to vote eight times before being allowed to vote, Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, a New York suffragist who earned a PhD in economics, and Virginia Louisa Minor, the Missouri woman who appealed to the Supreme Court in 1874 for her right to vote. Finally, we salute Anna Howard Shaw, who earned a Distinguished Service Medal during World War I and played a critical role in the leadership of NAWSA. For their leadership and outstanding dedication to women's rights, unity, and peace, these courageous women are well deserving of our respect and admiration. I commend them and the many others who fought alongside them for women of every creed, class, and ethnic background. These fearless and strong women serve as remarkable role models who reflect the 2020 theme, Valiant Women of the Vote.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to join in celebrating Women's History Month and recognizing the dedication, perseverance, contributions, and advances great American women from all cultures and classes have made to bettering our communities and the entire country. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating these extraordinary women who have improved American society and whose stories are woven into the fabric of our nation.

CONGRATULATING THE KNOXVILLE HIGH SCHOOL DANCE TEAM FOR ITS WIN AT THE IDTA STATE FINALS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Knoxville High School Dance Team for its win at the Illinois Drill Team Association (IDTA) State Finals for Class A Kick Dance. The Knoxville High School Dance Team overcame significant adversity to win this title and I commend them for their hard work and dedication.

After parting ways with two coaches who could not stay and coach the team, volunteer moms Tammy Myers and Jennifer Stoneking